

points for quantifying vegetation, moved on to the next point. Just near the fourth point, the sound of an animal running and at the same time one of our assistants shouting *Khaleyaad* (barking deer in Tamil) was heard. What one of us (JR) saw was a reddish brown deer, smaller in size, and somewhat different from a sambar or a spotted deer. Since it had antlers we knew it was a male. Our assistants showed us the place where it had been resting. It was under a *Grewia hirsuta* tree with sparse grass. We went to that site, had a closer look and found some hairs, which we collected and sent to the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehra Dun, for identification.

Back at the field station, we checked THE BOOK OF INDIAN ANIMALS (Prater 1971, p. 324). Our opinion that it could be a barking deer was confirmed. In addition, the hair sample also identified it a barking deer. It was really surprising to have seen a barking deer at Mundanthurai, as there have been no earlier records of its presence. Dr. A.J.T. Johnsingh, who has been working in this area for almost 30 years has not seen or even heard this deer (pers. comm). In addition, Dr. S.F. Wesley Sunderraj and one of us (JJ) have been working in this area since 1984, and have never seen or heard this deer before. In the past two years in KMTR, we have not heard or seen this deer. Our assistants, local Kanni tribals, say that they have seen this deer thrice near Kodamadi, beyond Servalar dam, while repairing the road in 1992.

Mundanthurai plateau, covering an area of c. 60 sq. km, retains mainly dry deciduous and open scrub forest with grass patches. The altitude is 204 m above msl. The animal was sighted near Tambraparni river adjacent to the Deer Valley.

In addition, one of us (JJ) sighted a female and J. Ronald sighted three, two adults (sex unidentified) and one yearling barking deer in the Kadayam range in the northwestern part of the Reserve.

Our sighting is the first of this deer on Mundanthurai plateau. We suspect that barking deer could have moved in from the Kodayam range which lies further northwest of the Reserve. More sightings of barking deer are needed to confirm the new addition of this ungulate species to the fauna of the Reserve.

July 27, 1999

JAYANTIRAY  
JUSTUS JOSHUA\*

J. RONALD

*Wildlife Institute of India*  
P.O. Box # 18, Chandrabani,  
Dehra Dun 248 001,  
Uttar Pradesh,  
India.

\*Present Address:  
*Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology*  
Patwadi Naka,  
Bhuj (Kachchh) 370 001,  
Gujarat,  
India.

## 6. TYPE SPECIMENS OF MAMMALS IN THE COLLECTIONS OF THE BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The mammalian type specimens present in the collections of the Bombay Natural History Society as on June '99 are included. The Society has a collection of 18,500 mammal skins and skulls. Most of the specimens were collected during the Mammal Survey of India undertaken by the Society from 1911 to 1928. The present note deals with the type specimens in the collections. The collection data has been transcribed from the labels.

CHIROPTERA

PTEROPODIDAE

PTEROPODINAE

*Cynopterus sphinx gangeticus* Andersen,  
1910

Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. 6: 623

Type: BNHM 1651, *cotypè*, juvenile female, from "Chanda" (in Maharashtra, western India) at about 500 ft.

**Date of collection:** September 1908  
**Collector:** Major A. Begbie  
**Measurements:** HB-153 mm, HF-17 mm  
**Current Status:** *Cynopterus sphinx* (Vahl, 1797). Wilson and Reeder (1993).

CHIROPTERA  
 PTEROPODIDAE  
 PTEROPODINAE

*Latidens salimalii* Thonglongya 1972.

J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 69: 153

**Type:** BNHM 1563, *holotype* from "High Wavy Mountains, Madura district, South India at about 2500ft.

**Date of Collection:** 2 May 1948 (Registration - 11 June 1948)

**Collector:** A. F. Hutton

**Current Status:** *Latidens salimalii* Thonglongya, 1972. Bates and Harrison (1997).

**Remarks:** *Latidens salimalii* is endemic to India.

CHIROPTERA  
 HIPPOSIDERIDAE

*Hipposideros hypophyllus* Kock & Bhat, 1994.

Senckenbergiana biol. 73(1-2) : 25-31

**Type:** BNHM 18363, *paratype*, female, from "Hanumanhalli, Kolar District, Bangalore, Karnataka, India".

**Date of Collection:** 7 March 1985

**Collector:** H.R. Bhat

**Current Status:** *Hipposideros hypophyllus* Kock & Bhat, 1994. Bates and Harrison (1997).

CARNIVORA  
 FELIDAE  
 FELINAE

*Felis libyca iraki* Cheesman, 1921.

*Felis ocreata iraki* Cheesman, 1921.

J. Bombay. nat. Hist. Soc., 27: 331-332

**Type:** BNHM 5981, *paratype*, male, from "Sheikh Saad" (Iraq).

**Date of Collection:** 08-12-1916

**Collector:** Cox & R.E. Cheesman  
**Current Status:** *Felis silvestris* Schreber, 1775. Wilson and Reeder (1993).

**Remarks:** Revised by Ragni & Randi (1986), who included *libyca* under *silvestris*. Smithers (1983) & Meester *et al.* (1986) retained *libyca* as separate from *silvestris*.

ARTIODACTYLA  
 TRAGULIDAE

*Tragulus meminna* Erxleben, 1777.

*Moschus meminna* Erxleben, 1777.

Syst. Regn. Anim., Mamm. 322.

**Type:** BNHM 17180 *topotype*, female from "Kissaraing Island" (Mergui Arch., Burma).

**Date of Collection:** 29 September 1921

**Collector:** C. Primrose

**Measurements:** HB-370mm, Ear-32 mm, HF-115mm, Tail-57mm

**Current Status:** *Moschiola memina* (Erxleben, 1777). Wilson and Reeder (1993).

ARTIODACTYLA  
 TRAGULIDAE

*Tragulus javanicus lampensis*, Miller, 1903

Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, 16:42

**Type:** BNHM 17838, *topotype*, male from "Sullivan Islands" (Mergui District, Burma).

**Date of collection:** 5 March 1922

**Collector:** C. Primrose

**Measurements:** HB-459mm, Ear-34mm, HF-116mm, Tail-62mm

**Current Status:** *Tragulus javanicus* (Osbeck, 1765). Wilson and Reeder (1993).

June 4, 1999

MEGHANA GAVAND  
 NARESH CHATURVEDI

Bombay Natural History Society,

Hornbill House, S.B. Singh Road,

Mumbai 400 023,

Maharashtra,

India.

## REFERENCES

- ANDERSEN, K. (1910): New Fruit-bats. *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.* 6: 623-624.
- BATES, PAUL J.J. & D.L. HARRISON (1997): Bats of the Indian Subcontinent. pp. 258.
- BLANDFORD, W.T. (1888-91): The Fauna of British India, Mammalia. Taylor and Francis, London 617 pp.
- CHEESMAN, R.E. (1921): Report on the Mammals of Mesopotamia: Collected by members of the Mesopotamian expeditionary force, 1915-1919. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 27: 323-346.
- ELLERMAN, J.R. & T.C.S. MORRISON-SCOTT (1951): Checklist of Palaearctic and Indian Mammals. 810 pp.
- KOCK, D. & H.R. BHAT (1994): Mammalia : Chiroptera-Hipposideridae *Senckenbergiana biol.* 73: 25-31.
- MEESTER, J.A.J., I.L. RAUTENBACH, N.J. DIPPENAR & C.M. BAKER (1986): Classification of southern African mammals. *Transvaal Museum Monograph* 27:1-14.
- RAGNI, B. & E. RANDI (1986): Multivariate analysis of craniometric characters in European wild cat, domestic cat and African wild cat (genus *Felis*). *Zeitschrift für Säugetierkunde* 51: 243-251.
- SMITHERS, R.H.N. (1983): The mammals of the Southern African Subregion. University of Pretoria, Republic of South Africa, 736 pp.
- THONGLONGYA, K. (1972): A new genus and species of Fruit Bat from South India (Chiroptera : Pteropodidae). *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 69: 151-158.
- WILSON, D.E. & D. M. REEDER (1993): Mammal species of the World. 1207 pp.

## 7. NIGHT HERONS AND LITTLE CORMORANTS IN THRISSUR, KERALA

Night herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) and little cormorants (*Phalacrocorax niger*) are communal nesting local migrants which usually build nests in trees that adjoin, or are actually standing in water bodies. These birds are seen in Southern India from November to February, their breeding season. When faced with water scarcity or disturbance of the nesting grounds, the birds are known to desert traditional nesting sites and move to other suitable places. But this year in Kerala, the birds were spotted in hundreds, nesting in tall mango and jackfruit trees in the densely populated Keerankulangara area of Thrissur town, Kerala. With no large water body nearby, the birds had to depend on the nearby ponds, water tanks and even local

markets for their fish. Their cries and the stench of the droppings have made them a nuisance to the local residents who are even contemplating shooting them! The disturbance of their traditional breeding grounds like Kumaragam and adjoining areas could be the cause of this invasion. An inquiry into the cause and a speedy solution are necessary to ease the problems of the residents and also ensure the safety of the birds.

March 30, 1998

LEELA MADHAVAN  
Department of Zoology,

Madras Christian College (Autonomous),  
Chennai 600 059,  
Tamil Nadu, India.

## 8. GREY HERON WRESTING FISH FROM HERRING GULL

On February 14, 1998, I saw something so unusual that it is worth reporting. Normally it is gulls that chivvy other birds and deprive them of their prey. On this occasion, the tables were effectively turned. My attention was drawn to a grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*), a herring gull (*Larus argentatus*) and a gullbilled tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) in turmoil. At first I thought the heron

was being harried, but it soon became apparent that it was the heron who was chasing the gull, who was being further harried and prevented from making a getaway by the tern chivvying it from above. The gull was weighed down by a fish in its beak. The skirmish continued for several minutes, the three birds in the air a few feet above the tidal mud. Finally, the gull let go